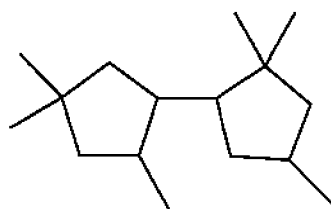


Amendments to the Claims

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

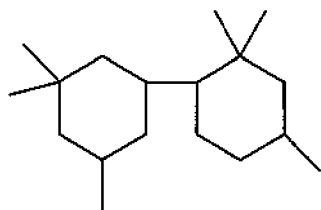
Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula I is a~~ comprising a hexamethyl dicyclopentane compound of the formula (III):



(III).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula I is a~~ comprising a hexamethyl dicyclohexane compound of the formula (IV):

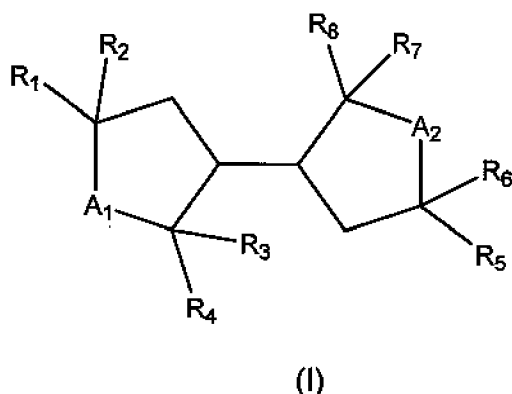


(IV).

4. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic preparation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the amount of the compound ~~of formula (I) in the present in the cosmetic preparation~~ is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the cosmetic preparation.

5. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic preparation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) in the present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the preparation.

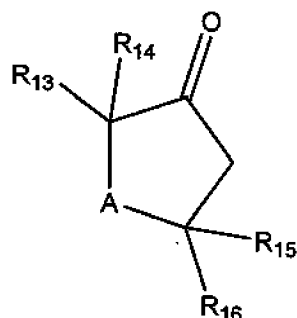
6. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein each of R_1 - R_{12} is independently hydrogen or a linear C_{1-20} alkyl group each of A_1 and A_2 is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom wherein A_1 is substituted by R_9 and R_{10} and A_2 is substituted by R_{11} and R_{12} ; and wherein at least one of R_1 - R_{12} is a linear alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

7. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 6 wherein each of the ring structures is a cyclopentane ring or a cyclohexane ring.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a compound of claim 6 comprising the steps of: (a) reacting a cycloalkanone of the formula (II):



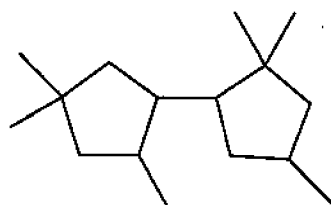
(II)

wherein each of R₁₃-R₁₈ is independently hydrogen or a linear C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group; A is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom substituted by R₁₇ and R₁₈ with a base to form an aldol condensation product; (b) forming a neutralised product by contacting the aldol condensation with acid; (3) hydrogenating the neutralised product.

9. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 8 wherein the cycloalkanone is 2,2,4-trimethylcyclopentanone or 2,2,4-trimethylcyclohexanone.

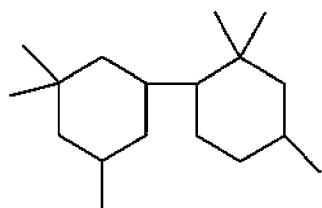
10-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The A pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the compound of formula I is a~~ comprising a hexamethyl dicyclopentane compound of the formula (III):



(III).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ pharmaceutical composition of ~~claim 13, wherein the compound of formula I is a~~ comprising a hexamethyl dicyclohexane compound of the formula (IV):



(IV).

16. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~[[13]] 14~~, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical of formula (I) in the composition is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

17. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~[[13]] 14~~, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical of formula (I) in the composition is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

18. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical composition is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

19. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical composition is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the composition.

20. (New) The cosmetic preparation of claim 3 wherein the amount of the compound present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the cosmetic preparation.

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21. (New) The cosmetic preparation of claim 3 wherein the amount of the compound present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the cosmetic preparation.